



DEAF
EDUCATION
ADVOCATES
FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE FOUNDATION FOR WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

SPRING 2009 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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My Dear Fellow Supporters,

Welcome to the first edition of the Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.) newsletter.

We are celebrating several accomplishments of the past year. Building on the dream of former Washington School for the Deaf Superintendent Dr. Gary Holman who founded D.E.A.F. in 1989, we have made significant strides in our efforts to carry out our mission: *"To enhance the education of all deaf and hard of hearing children and youth in Washington State."* Our mission embraces all students who have attended WSD on campus in Vancouver as well as those served by the outreach programs WSD delivers to many local school districts and communities throughout the State of Washington.

We identified several projects to be necessary as we moved into greater community awareness and specific areas in which to initially focus our fund raising efforts. One of these was WSD's *Post High School Program*, designed to provide students and graduates with the independent living skills and work experience that they need to become successful, self-sufficient young adults.

A generous contribution from one of WSD's employment partners, Columbia Machine, gave us a needed boost. Following that was a grant of \$15,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust's *Grassroots Grants* program. This grant allowed the D.E.A.F. board of directors to engage a professional development consultant and develop marketing tools to aid our efforts to become a more prominent and stronger public advocate for WSD.

Our first year-end direct mail appeal in November 2008 raised much-appreciated contributions from caring community members and allowed D.E.A.F. to make an important contribution to the *Post High School Program* (see next page). In March 2009, D.E.A.F. secured additional support for the Post High School Program through a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Washington's *Community Giving Fund*.

We all know the struggles that high school graduates experience as they begin to face the world with some measure of uncertainty. WSD graduates are met with far greater challenges than their hearing peers. With the support of a caring community, D.E.A.F. has been able to provide some of the critical "tools for success" needed by students and recent graduates of WSD over the past year.

D.E.A.F. is grateful to all of our supporters and advocates for sharing in our mission to provide the best possible educational and vocational opportunities for the students served by WSD.

Thank you,
Courtleigh Guerci, *President, DEAF*

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Would you like to receive future issues of this newsletter via email?

Help us to keep printing and postage costs down
- email us at DEAF.office@wsd.wa.gov
to subscribe.

BE A PART OF WSD FOREVER

How: Buy a commemorative brick for \$50

When you purchase five or more bricks, you will receive a \$5.00 per brick discount.

Why: Each brick purchased will also benefit D.E.A.F.

Who can buy: Anyone – parents, students, teachers, administrators, or special WSD friends.
Makes a great gift or as a memorial to loved ones.

Where your brick(s) will be located:

In a very special commemorative garden and walk in central campus near the residential cottages.

How to purchase:



By U.S. Mail: fill out the enclosed pledge form and use the enclosed return envelope,



Online: Make your donation online at www.deaf-wa.org and email the preferred wording for your brick to deaf.office@wsd.wa.gov. We will contact you to confirm your order & answer any questions.

Questions? Call the D.E.A.F. office at 360-418-4289 or email deaf.office@wsd.wa.gov.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2008-2009 DONORS!

In November 2008, D.E.A.F. made its first appeal to the community for contributions to support WSD's *Post High School Program*. Caring community members from the Vancouver area and throughout Washington State responded enthusiastically – and helped WSD to provide over \$2,500 to purchase additional furnishings for the Post High School apartments and provide the program with much-needed new kitchen tools (pots, pans, small appliances).

“The “apartments” currently look like dorm rooms with only a bed and a desk. With the support of D.E.A.F., we can now add tables and comfortable chairs in each so the students have a living space that functions like an apartment”, said Jane Mulholland, Assistant Superintendent. The funds are also helping to purchase additional bedroom and living room furnishings.

H.W. Brelje, Ed.D.

Roy Brothers

Donald and Sue Cannard

Carol Carrothers

Pat Clothier

Columbia Machine

Charlotte Cooney

*In honor of all of the special ed.
students*

that I worked with at WSD

Michael and Nancy Fitta

Charles and Wanda Forcht

Courtleigh Guerri

Rick Huan

Harry and Doris Haley

In honor of Madeline

Home Run Graphics

Allie Joiner

Juanita Kamphuis

Carole Kaulitz

Margaret Lemcke

James and Kay McClaskey

Jane Mulholland

***Special Thanks to
Columbia Machine
for their \$1,000 lead gift toward
this special need at WSD!***

Dean Patterson

Larry and Leila Petersen

In memory of Oliver Kastel

Gail Pollock

James and Wilma Raines

Dolorita Reandean

Kristin Rydecki

Drina Simons

Marjorie and Harold Stickel

The Stromberg Family

Larry Swift

Despo Varkados

Sidney Weldele Wallace

SCHOOL WISH LIST FOR SPRING 2009

If you wish to donate an item or funds to support the needs on this current "wish list", please contact the D.E.A.F. office at 360-418-4289 or deaf.office@wsd.wa.gov. Thank you!

- **BOOKS:**

- ✓ The high school classrooms are seeking donations of books (novels) for the classroom shelves. They can be used or new.
- ✓ The school library is seeking donations of new or used books for all grade levels, to support the accelerated reading program.



- **"SMART BOARDS" FOR THE CLASSROOMS
IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT PRODUCTIONS
AT WSD, THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT IS
SEEKING DONATIONS OF:**

- ✓ Bulbs for stage lights in the WSD auditorium (need a total of 10 bulbs – cost per bulb \$25)
- ✓ A sound system.

- **DEAF TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMP -**

Four \$75 "supplemental" scholarships needed:

The Washington School for the Deaf High School ASB (Associated Student Body) would like to select four high school student representatives to attend the Deaf Teen Leadership Camp at the Cispus Learning Center in Randle, WA, near Mt. Rainer from June 27-July 1, 2009.

The full fee is \$150 per student – each student will be responsible for raising the matching \$75 from other sources (family, local organizations and businesses).

The activities will include a challenge course, leadership skills development activities, outdoor activities, team building skills, self-advocacy skills, and much more.

THANK YOU, MEYER MEMORIAL TRUST!

Thanks to a generous *grassroots grant* from the **Meyer Memorial Trust** to build capacity and fund overhead expenses, 100% of every contribution to D.E.A.F. between March 2008 – February 2009 directly benefited programs at Washington School for the Deaf. This support has gone a long way to help D.E.A.F. to launch its statewide fund raising efforts, and is greatly appreciated!

For more information:

- ✓ **Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.)**, visit our web site: <http://www.deaf-wa.org> or call (360) 418-4289.
- ✓ **Washington School for the Deaf**, visit <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>.

NEW VIDEO COMING SOON

Through a special partnership with the *Nonprofit Network of Southwest Washington*, D.E.A.F. is producing a 5-minute video highlighting programs at WSD, and will be including this video in many community presentations throughout the year.



If you are interested in having a D.E.A.F. representative to speak to your organization or business, please contact the D.E.A.F. office at 360-418-4289.

DEAF EDUCATION ADVOCATES FOUNDATION (D.E.A.F.) RECEIVES GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

On March 19, 2009, Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.) received a \$10,000 grant from the **Community Foundation for Southwest Washington**. The grant was made through the small grants program of the Community Foundation's *Community Giving Fund*.

Funds will be used to support "*Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity*", D.E.A.F.'s campaign to support the Post High School Program at Washington School for the Deaf (WSD). One of the primary goals of Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) is to help each student to successfully transition to adult life.

Through the school's post high school program, students participate in independent living skills classes and are placed in work assignments to learn vocational skills. Grant funds will provide these young people with funds to pay for any tools, equipment or uniforms that they need on the job but are unable to afford. It will also allow the school

to purchase a much-needed update to the independent living skills curriculum.

"We are grateful to the Community Foundation for their support," said Rick Hauan, WSD Superintendent. "These funds will help WSD to provide our students and graduates with the best possible opportunities as they prepare for the challenges of living independently and achieving success in their chosen vocation."

"We are pleased to partner with the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington in our efforts," said Courtleigh Guerci, D.E.A.F. Board President. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of the many community members who helped to make this grant possible by contributing to the Community Foundation's *Community Giving Fund*."

CF
**THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

**D.E.A.F. ACCEPTS
ONLINE DONATIONS!**

**MAKE AN ONLINE GIFT USING
OUR SAFE AND SECURE FORMS**

AT WWW.DEAF-WA.ORG

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